

This service summarizes current satellite mapping activities of interest to GDACS stakeholders. It is issued weekly and based on contributions from map-producing entities and GDACS partners.

Satellite mapping overview

As of 06 July 2015

Africa

South Sudan complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20131218SSD

As a result of renewed violence in Sudan during 2011, South Sudan experienced an influx of refugees. Continuous conflict in South Sudan, however, has caused many South Sudanese citizens to seek refuge in neighboring Kenya. In an effort to monitor the refugee situation in South Sudan and aid future refugee camp planning in Kenya, UNITAR-UNOSAT recently published a map of Gendrasa refugee camp in the Upper Nile State of South Sudan, as well as elevation and land cover classification maps for Kalobeyei in Turkana County, Kenya. Analysis of satellite imagery acquired 08 April 2015 revealed a total of 9,692 shelters and 225 infrastructure and support buildings in the Gendrasa refugee camp. This represents a shelter increase of approximately 17% since the previous UNITAR-UNOSAT analysis of 06 December 2013 imagery. An elevation map of Kalobeyei illustrates the site's catchment area as well as potential water level increase scenarios ranging from one to three meters along a modeled stream network. Using satellite imagery from 05 and 08 March 2015, UNITAR-UNOSAT also derived land cover classifications which show the Kalobeyei site is mainly covered by bare, sandy and alluvial soils, as well as some vegetated and riparian areas. Map products are available for download as PDFs on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying shapefiles and geodatabases in ESRI format are also accessible.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

Link: <http://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps/SSD>

Niger complex emergency – GLIDE number: TBD

The Diffa region of Niger is home to many refugees living outside of traditional camps. According to the UNHCR, limited social services and a precarious socio-economic situation in Niger have led to problems between host communities and refugees. In order to aid humanitarian efforts, REACH recently produced several maps of infrastructure within villages situated in the Diffa region. Villages that were examined include Bardéri, Boulangou Yeskou, Dagargo, Dalaourou, Gremadi, Kakarawa, Kaywa, Koublé Damaram, Loumbouram, Mai Chanouri, and Maloumdi. Using satellite imagery acquired in 2015, REACH identified clinics, schools, markets, stores, water fountains, wells and pumps in the villages. Additional information specific to each infrastructural feature is also included in the maps. Map products are available for online viewing and download as PDFs on the REACH website.

Source: REACH

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Link: http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/advanced-search?name_list%5B%5D=NE&field_document_type_tid%5B%5D=4

Middle East

Yemen complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20150402YEM

Ongoing conflict in Yemen has caused parts of the country to suffer from significant damage and destruction. UNITAR-UNOSAT released a new damage assessment this past week for part of the city of Taiz in Taiz Governorate, Yemen. Using satellite imagery acquired 26 June 2015, UNITAR-UNOSAT identified a total of 194 affected structures. Approximately 34 of these structures were destroyed, 52 severely damaged, 74 moderately damaged, and 34 possibly damaged. Additionally, 257 areas with significant amounts of debris were located. This damage assessment is available for download as a PDF on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying data in ESRI shapefile and geodatabase format are also provided.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

Link: <http://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps/YEM>

North America

Canada wildfires – GLIDE number: TBD

Wildfires in Canada continued to grow and expel large quantities of smoke in late June 2015. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired imagery of wildfires in western Canada on 29 June 2015 and produced a situational overview map. As of this date, hundreds of wildfires were visible and vast expanses of smoke were observable in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. According to the NASA Earth Observatory, wildfires burning near the Athabasca oil sands in northern Alberta produced the most smoke. As of 29 June 2015, the Canadian government reported 168 uncontrolled fires and 273 controlled fires burning in the country. Health warnings were issued in several provinces due to the smoke and more than 1,300 people were evacuated. This map product is available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=86151&eocon=home&eoci=nh>

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This summary is compiled by the GDACS mapping & satellite imagery coordination mechanism, operated by the UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT).

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For comments, questions and to submit information on satellite image derived products, please contact:

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Sources indicate satellite analysis production entities and imagery providers. The products referenced in this summary are based on remote satellite imagery and may not be validated in the field prior to release, in which case findings are based only on what is observed in the satellite imagery.

**Not an official GLIDE number, as event has no entry in GLIDE database, but used by GDACS for seamless information integration.*